

60,130-1467
02MRA0266**REMARKS**

Claims 2, 4, 8-10, 12 and 13 have been cancelled. Claim 1, 3, 5-7, 11, 14 and 15 are still pending and claims 21 and 22 have been added.

Claims 1-3, 6, and 11-12 were rejected as being anticipated over Lemieux (U.S. Patent Application 2003/0094341). Amended claims 1 and 11 include the limitation originally presented in claims 4 and 13 that the first and second housings include a key and keyway to align an opening therebetween. Lemieux does not disclose such features and therefore does not anticipate amended claims 1 and 11.

Claims 4 and 13 were rejected as being obvious over Lemieux in view of Demers et al. (U.S. 4,162,750). Demers et al discloses a dovetail tongue and groove arrangement for securing a head plate of an auxiliary cylinder to a head plate of a main cylinder. The proposed modification of Lemieux in view of Demers et al is improper because it would destroy a stated purpose of Lemieux to provide a simple, cost-effective shock absorber.(Page 2, paragraph 15). The machining and tolerances required to form such a dovetail tongue and groove arrangement would increase cost and complexity, rather than simplify and reduce cost as stated. As such there can be no suggestion or motivation to make the proposed modification.

Further, the dovetail tongue and groove arrangement requires that one part be slid onto the other during assembly, rather than simply being drawn together. Such an assembly requirement would make the assembly of a seal between the two parts impossible. A fluid communication interface without a seal would not operate properly and therefore provide no benefit. Further, the tolerances that are required to provide such a fit are contrary to the stated purpose of Lemieux. For this reason the proposed modification would be of no benefit, and would destroy a stated purpose of the base reference. Where there is no benefit there can be no suggestion or motivation

Additionally, the dovetail configuration disclosed in Demers et al, is not on the housing and is not utilized to align openings. Further, Lemux does not state any feature for aligning the openings within the two housings. As such, the Examiner is utilizing Applicant's own disclosure as a guide to modifying Limux. The proposed modification of Lemux in view of Demers et al is

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only conceivable through impermissible hindsight reasoning using Applicant's specification as a guide.

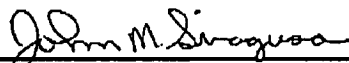
Further, the proposed modification of Lemieux does not disclose the limitations required by claims 1 and 11. Claims 1 and 11 require a key and a keyway on the housing, not the end plates as is disclosed by Demers et al. Accordingly, modification of Lemieux in view of Demers does not disclose or suggest all the features of claims 1 and 11. For these reasons Applicant requests withdrawal of the rejections to claims 1,3,6 and 11-12.

Claims 5 and 14 were rejected as being obvious over Lemieux and the general knowledge in the art. Claim 15 was rejected as being obvious over Lemieux in view of Sendrea (U.S. 6,659,241). Claim 7 was rejected as being obvious over Lemieux in view of Hasegawa (US 6,182,806), Hartman et al. (US 5,980,339), Mueller et al (DE 4102002) and Mitin (RU 2089765). Claim 10 was rejected as being obvious over Lemieux in view of Hasegawa (US 6,182,806), Hartman et al. (US 5,980,339), Mueller et al (DE 4102002) and Mitin (RU 2089765). All of these claims now depend from an allowable base claim and are therefore also in allowable form.

Applicant has included new claims 21 and 22 that recite specific features of the key and keyway slot disposed on the housings. These limitations are not disclosed or suggested by the prior art.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. Applicant believes that no additional fees are necessary, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482 in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: November 16, 2004